

MICHIGAN UNCOVERS MODER STAR QUARTERBACK IN CLIFFORD SPARKS

Western Gridiron Critics Are Already Hailing Young Wolverine Field General as a Second Walter Eckersall, While "Hurry Up" Yost Is All Smiles Regarding His Latest Football Find.

By FRANK G. MENKE.

THE Wolverines have uncovered a quarterback—Clifford Sparks—whose brilliant work this season has ranked him among the most sensational performers in the western football world.

Sparks has a chain-lightning brain; one that recognizes every opportunity in the minutest flash. And he has legs and arms that work in harmony. He has "pulled" plays repeatedly that have disconcerted the Ann Arbor fans, put them to utter rout and brought gasps of astonishment from the stands because of their audacity and their remarkable execution.

Just to illustrate: The Wolverines, pitted against the powerful Michigan Aggies, had carried the ball into Aggie territory. And then the Aggie line stiffened and threw back the plungers of the heavy Wolverine backs. So Sparks called upon Johnny Maubach for a try for goal from placement.

Sparks lay on the ground waiting for the pass so that he could hold the ball for the Maubach boot. But the center, threw the ball too high. Even as it left his hands, Sparks saw that he couldn't make the catch while lying on the ground or while half raised by his knees.

And then seemingly with a single movement, Sparks jumped to his feet, grabbed the ball as it was about to fall, and dropped it to the ground.

It was the greatest individual play I ever saw in my whole career as a coach or player," says "Hurry Up" Yost's comment after the play. And every person in that crowd who saw Sparks plan and execute that play in something less than two seconds, called it "a gem."

But it isn't only in braininess that Sparks stands out. He is one of the greatest all-around gridironers that has ever played in the West. In that Aggie game, the entire Wolverine team gained a total of 300 yards in 100 plays. Sparks alone accounted for 197 yards of it. He crumpled the Aggie

line almost every time he crashed into it and circled ends for ease, and was as cool as a cucumber in running back punts.

Sparks ranks right now—in his first year as a Michigan regular—as the greatest quarterback Michigan ever has had. There is nothing he cannot do, and in a way that thrills. Even in punting he is a wizard and his method is reminiscent of Pat O'Dea, the great Wisconsin booter.

Sparks, like O'Dea, has mastered that difficult trick of successfully punting after throwing the ball with force and the upspring boot. Almost all other punters in the game play safe by dropping the ball on the foot. They realize that to throw it hard at the shoe will give greater height and distance to the kick, but they know full well that the throwing is dangerous, as the ball and foot are likely to meet at an angle, thus "kicking" the kick.

But Sparks can do it—and therein lies one of the main causes for Michigan's success this season. His kicks are long and high and give almost his entire team plenty of time to get down the field, "cover" the man who is set for the catch and then dump him at once. During that Aggie game not one of the Wolverine footmen made more than two yards on any of the Sparks punts—a record that may stand for years.

Recalls Memories of Eckersall. One of the peculiar features of that drop kick Sparks made against the Aggies was that not until then—no one—not even Yost—knew that he had skill in that line. The kid never had been called upon before to display his wares in that drop kicking, and was too modest to tell Yost that he could do a bit of it in pinches.

When Sparks made that extraordinary play, the Aggie thought it was a new trick of sorts. And so they watched for similar ones after that. Sparks knew they were watching and recognized the opportunity for "crossing" the Aggie. Several times after that he signaled for a kick formation. The Aggie set themselves for a duplication of the unexplained play. And all ways Sparks did something else to the utter bewilderment of the Aggie.

And now the west is asking: "What's the secret?" Eckersall has been reincarnated in Clifford Sparks.

TAD'S TID-BITS BY TAD

BATTLING KEEFE, THE CHAMP of all champs, sends us a note from the town on the wrong side of the Bridge. Here it is:

Brooklyn, Nov. 4.
Hon. Tad—I can prove that I am the undefeated boxing champion, but I have been robbed from all the credit I have done.

Yours, BATTLING KEEFE, On the Job.

LISTEN TO ME, BOYS, off with the ear lapp. James Johnston, the boy handit, not only has boxers but he has a press agent. Get out the old slippers, clean off the chatters and give these the North and South.

"Now that Tom Cowler, the clever English heavyweight, has proved the right for a fight with Jess Willard by disposing of Bill Brennan, the 'knockout king' in ten rounds, it looks like a match between Moran and Cowler for a right to meet Willard in a titular bout. Cowler has been improving in every fight. The decisive whipping he gave Garbutt Smith three weeks ago and an added victory to his already long record by disposing of Bill Brennan, the Chicago heavyweight, proves that I was right when I predicted some time ago that Cowler was the logical man for the heavyweight title."

More Oil on the Wheel, Phil.

"FUNNY, ISN'T IT?" MUSED Jimmie Johnston, manager of Joe Welling. "Here is Vernon Castle, a dancer, who has gone to the front to fight for his country, while Freddie Welsh, a fighter, won't do anything but dance in this country, instead of fighting."

Johnston is peeved. Yes, very much peeved. And all because Freddie Welsh won't give Welling a crack at his title.

"Welling seems to be a thorn in the side of the famous Benny Leonard, also," adds Johnston. "Leonard has been masquerading throughout the country as a lightweight, but the best he can do is 140 pounds ringside. The best Charlie White can do is about the same. Now to prove that I am right I will bet \$5000 that Welling can knock out Benny Leonard, Charlie White or Ever Hammer in a 10 or 20-round contest, provided, if they are lightweights, they make 133 pounds ringside. If they cannot make it they will have to step into the welterweight class and I will have Ted Lewis, the world's greatest fighting machine, give them a boxing lesson, as he has already done to Mr. White."

WILLARD STUART, WHO IS STEERING Mr. Waugh through the dark and dreary places, sends us this about his man. Give 'em air, boys; give 'em air—SHOOT.

With a knockout record the envy of lightweight boxers, and with the experience few possess, Bobby Waugh, idol of Southern fight fans, is about to make his first appearance among the battlers of the North and East.

Twenty-round contests seem to be a specialty with Waugh, for in the past three years the little Texan has participated in more long distance battles than any of the present-day lightweights. And in shorter bouts he appears to have been equally successful. His victories in the past years over the best boys in the South and Middle West stamp him as one of the real contenders for the title held by Freddie Welsh.

Fight fans will best remember Waugh's early career because of his two draws with that sterling Chicago lightweight, Charley White.



Friend No. 6842 of Sioux City, Ia., was curious. He cut open a TOM KEENE Cigar. "I don't see," he said, "how they can keep the workmanship of that SE TOM KEENE so good in face of rising costs. And yet unquestionably they do."

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STATE NATIONAL BANK

Will Freddie Welsh Box Johnny Dundee For the 133 Pound Title?

By CHUCK SWAN.

WILL Freddie Welsh box Johnny Dundee over the marathon route for the lightweight honors? Right now, this is the question which is the key-note of conversation among boxing men in New York, and we have it, first hand, that Welsh has refused to tangle with Scotty Monteth's Jumping Jack Wop over the long distance route.

But, there's the little likelihood of Welsh turning down Dundee, if Monteth was in earnest about that \$18,000 offer. You know it's easy to talk these big figures, but when it comes to putting up the old hard green and yellow boys, there's a great many who can't count over ten. And there are some who have a hard time getting up that far.

Dundee is a mighty clever boy, we all admit that. In fact, outside of Johnny Kilbane, we think he's got the best show of any of the boys around the 133 pound mark to hang a beating on Welsh.

Dundee is a clever boxer. He's been seen by El Paso

fans, but not at his best. When he fought Leonard the last time in Madison Square garden, the fans were treated to a sample of boxing such as they had never witnessed before. Of course, it was another of those no decision affairs, but that's just what New Yorkers want. The Gotham wise guy is the easiest to trim and all, but none of them will admit it. New Yorkers furnish the best example of P. T. Barnum's favorite expression, "There's one born every minute."

Welsh can step when he wants to. He has been forced, once or twice, to really travel, since winning the championship from Ritchie. He's the best of the present day lightweights without a doubt. Johnny Griffiths, the Akron welter, outpunched Welsh, but the Briton was not in shape.

He was heavy. The same holds good for the majority of his no decision bouts. But, Charlie White can tell you that Welsh can still step the lively fantastic if he so desires, for Charlie knows. He went 20 rounds

with the titleholder Labor day at Denver, and, as was expected, finished on the short end, Nate Lewis and Tommy Walsh to the contrary.

Welsh has boxed Benny Leonard a couple of times, once the Gothamite getting the newspaper decision and the other time the champion drawing the laurels. Now, if Welsh really trains for a scrap, that is, cuts out the grand standings and gets down to hard work, he can trim Leonard. He's proved that he's a faster man, can out general Leonard without half trying, and can also slip all the punches Benny lets fly.

In only one item has Leonard the edge on Welsh, and that is in hitting power. Welsh cannot punch. This has been proved time after time, and none of the boys is afraid of going on with him.

There was a youngster back in Jersey a couple of years ago who looked like the boy to take the measure of all the lightweights, and Welsh wasn't the least bit anxious to meet him, but a loose glove laced land-

ed in his right eye during a training stunt in Cleveland, and he became blind. He later regained his sight, but could not follow the gloves fast enough. Joe Shugrue was the boy's name, and he looked like the one best bet in the lightweight division.

Shugrue is Good. Dundee boxed Singue a couple of times, the papers splitting as usual, over the decision. We saw them box once, and declared it a good draw. Dundee is fast as chain lightning, but is too much off his balance at all times to do any effective hitting. And, it will be in this respect that Welsh will beat him. Freddie will catch Dundee up in the air, and with that fast left of his, just keep popping away at Dundee's face. He'll land, too, more often than he misses.

This sort of go will be a pleasing one to witness, as Dundee realizes that he will only get this one chance at Welsh now. There are too many towns with the no decision ruling in vogue for Freddie to take many chances over the marathon route.

It has been public property for some time that Trix Speaker had been offered the berth, but it appears that Trix would rather play the outfit, hit around and draw down his money, stipend without the worries which go with the managerial job, than take all the abuse a boxing club gets. It's a cinch that the Trix will not touch the pennant ladder next year unless another Stallions miracle appears on the horizon.

There's some consolation for Gov. Hughes. The president of the United States always gets a season pass to see the Washington club play. This should help him to take his defeat gracefully.

Hitchcock, Hollenback, Chaddock & Co. sure showed El Paso fans some real football Saturday afternoon at Rio Grande park, when the 11th division artillery combination trimmed the 30th infantry in the army league opener, 13 to 0. In a fifty contest Hitchcock's defense work was a revelation. The former Harvard and All-American tackle was all over the field, smothering the offense of the regulars at every point. It was Chaddock's work on the end of several long forward passes which really caused the defeat of the doughboy regulars.

Strope, who did the hurling, was in good form, and drew down his money, stipend without the worries which go with the managerial job, than take all the abuse a boxing club gets. It's a cinch that the Trix will not touch the pennant ladder next year unless another Stallions miracle appears on the horizon.

Ser. Antonio Goetz and his 20th U. S. infantry band made a big hit Saturday at Rio Grande park. A splendid concert was rendered in the grandstand, and the fans were hearty in their applause. Among the selections featured were "Zani Zani Wanzels and Banners," "Hello, Hawaii, How are You," "On My Way to Mexico" and "Rattling Pipes of Pan."

Army Football League

THE STANDING.

	W.	L.	Ties
11th Artillery	1	0	1,000
25th Michigan	1	0	1,000
Eight Artillery	0	0	1,000
Fourth Ohio	0	0	1,000
Third Ohio	0	0	1,000
25th Michigan	0	0	1,000
Third Ohio	0	0	1,000
Fourth Ohio	0	0	1,000
Second Mass. Ambulance	0	0	1,000
Fourth Ohio	0	0	1,000
First North Carolina	0	0	1,000
25th Michigan	0	0	1,000
25th U. S. Infantry	0	0	1,000

THE RESULTS.

25th Michigan—13—25th Michigan—0.

11th Artillery—12—25th Michigan—0.

THE SCHEDULE.

THURSDAY.

Fourth Ohio vs. Third Pa. Field Artillery at Penn. Field.

FIFTH OHIO vs. Sixth Ohio at Eighth Ohio Field.

SATURDAY.

Eight Artillery vs. Engineers at Rio Grande Park.

Third Pa. Artillery vs. First North Carolina at Penn. Field.

Second Mass. Ambulance vs. Sixth Ohio at Eighth Ohio Field.

SUNDAY.

20th Infantry vs. 25th Michigan at Rio Grande Park.

Fifth Ohio vs. Eighth Ohio at Eighth Ohio Field.

Fourth Ohio vs. team not selected at Penn. Field.

11th Michigan vs. 11th Artillery at School of Mines.

Official Batting Averages of the National League

New York, Nov. 12.—Following are the official batting averages of National league players who participated in at least 15 championship games during the season of 1918, and whose averages are .250 or over:

	G	AB	R	H	TR	3B	HR	SB	Pct.
Hoecke, Walter, N. Y.	38	111	16	39	47	4	2	0	3.10
Chase, Hal, Cin.	142	546	68	184	249	29	12	4	9.32
McCarthy, L. Brook.	18	218	27	71	27	3	0	18	4.32
Huggins, Miller, St. L.	18	9	2	3	0	0	0	3	0.33
Daubert, Jake, Brook.	127	478	75	151	196	16	7	3	3.35
Hutchins, Wm., Pitts.	152	555	64	177	237	18	16	4	17.10
Hornsbury, Rogers, St. L.	139	495	63	155	220	17	12	6	13.17
Wheat, Zack, Brook.	149	588	76	177	282	32	12	9	19.31
Robertson, Davis, N. Y.	150	587	88	180	250	18	8	12	16.21
Olson, Thos. St. L.	119	403	37	115	152	11	10	1	9.21
Wagner, John H., Pitts.	121	422	53	124	168	13	7	0	13.17
Zimmerman, H., Chic.	147	549	76	157	214	29	5	4	12.24
Fletcher, Arthur, N. Y.	132	500	58	142	191	23	8	3	15.19
Travath, E. C., Phil.	157	448	70	127	167	21	8	11	15.19
Whitted, Geo., Phil.	157	526	63	148	210	29	12	4	19.28
Luderus, Fred, Phil.	146	508	52	142	190	24	3	12	8.28
Stock, Milton, Phil.	132	509	61	143	183	25	6	1	12.21
Burns, Geo.	155	622	105	174	239	24	8	5	9.27
Parsons, Geo., Phil.	149	532	63	152	225	19	7	8	12.22
Stengel, Chas., Brook.	127	452	69	129	179	27	11	13	11.27
Williams, Fred, Chic.	118	405	55	117	185	19	9	12	19.37
Burns, Geo.	42	121	2	34	40	2	0	2	2.77
Bender, Chas., Phil.	55	158	19	45	59	6	4	0	6.17
Schulte, Frank, Chic.	127	407	43	112	152	14	4	5	16.19
Doyle, Larry, N. Y.	122	479	61	132	193	29	11	5	14.19
Blackburn, Earl, Bos.	47	119	12	30	42	4	0	4	2.77
Smith, Sherrod, Brook.	28	77	1	21	28	2	0	1	2.72
Adams, Chas. B., Pitts.	16	22	1	6	8	0	0	3	1.77
Mann, Leslie, Chic.	127	415	46	112	150	13	9	2	8.17
Parsons, Geo., Phil.	61	126	9	37	47	4	3	0	2.77
Parsons, Geo., Phil.	149	533	85	149	207	24	14	0	1.77
Groh, Henry, Chic.	198	741	38	21	128	7	15	0	9.19
Roush, Ed., N. Y.	198	741	38	21	128	7	15	0	9.19
Griffith, Thos. H., Chic.	132	479	59	158	206	28	7	2	16.36
Herschel, Chas., Cin.	154	561	70	148	187	24	6	1	24.64
Kauff, Benny, N. Y.	154	553	71	145	225	15	5	0	13.27
Carey, Max, Pitts.	154	590	108	158	224	23	11	7	14.62
Verkes, Steve, Chic.	44	137	12	36	49	6	2	1	3.38
Neale, A. E., Brook.	53	139	10	32	42	5	0	12	13.35
Myers, H. H., Brook.	132	413	54	108	162	12	5	0	12.17
Konetchy, Ed., Bos.	138	568	76	147	211	29	13	0	13.28
Cuthbert, Geo., Brook.	154	581	58	151	186	21	4	0	29.27
Smith, J. C., Bos.	157	584	18	52	65	1	0	6	6.26
Smith, J. C., Bos.	157	584	18	52	65	1	0	6	6.26
Snyder, Frank, St. L.	132	408	25	105	125	12	4	0	6.12
Flack, Max, Chic.	141	465	65	129	149	12	3	3	29.24
Neale, A. E., Brook.	158	590	26	100	112	1	0	1	12.13
Miller, Otto, Brook.	216	741	14	61	80	1	0	1	1.77
Hahn, Emil, Chic.	37	94	4	21	31	2	0	0	9.23
Elliot, Harold, Chic.	22	55	5	14	17	2	0	4	1.77
Smith, J. C., Bos.	198	741	38	21	128	7	15	0	9.19
Kelly, Joe, Chic.	147	489	60	126	178	25	7	13	20.33
Saler, Victor, Chic.	138	449	32	88	107	14	1	14	8.23
Gowdy, H., Bos.	118	425	58	107	123	8	1	9	22.53
Johnston, Jas. B., Brook.	75	216	18	47	61	4	2	1	7.23
Good, Wilbur, Phil.	43	164	17	41	56	3	0	5	8.23
Higbie, Carson, Pitts.	45	132	12	33	42	0	1	6	2.50

CLUB BATTING.

Cincinnati	133	524	58	155	235	19	38	20	187.361
New York	155	512	59	139	176	13	74	42	184.252
Philadelphia	154	494	51	124	169	22	58	43	179.143
St. Louis	157	530	47	123	161	15	74	25	116.123
Pittsburgh	157	512	48	124	165	15	74	25	116.123
Chicago	156	519	32	137	181	19			
Boston	138	507	54	118	159	16	73	22	292.141